

Borne the Battle Ep. 200, Aerial "Big Swole" Hull (Interview Only)

Tanner Iskra: [00:00:00] First of all Ariel, thank you for coming on the show, for some reason I never find enough air force veterans to come on Borne the battle. So, I mean, I'm a Marine veteran, so I know plenty of Marine, veteran friends, never enough airman. So thank you for coming on. I got to say, I saw your debut on dynamite, but I had no idea that your, that you were a veteran.

Oh,

Aerial Hull: [00:00:23] yeah. It's like a little personal secret. Feels like

Tanner Iskra: [00:00:26] no, but AEW was all was, was right on the ball. To be honest, I sent them a random email to their media relations in the middle of the night. Asking if they had any veteran wrestlers or anybody in the promotion that was a veteran. And I got to say they were, they were very quick to respond.

They were very accommodating and they recommended you right away.

Aerial Hull: [00:00:43] Awesome. That's why I love my Job.

Tanner Iskra: [00:00:44] Absolutely, now I heard them mention on the broadcast of your last match. And I wondered that you were a veteran that you're an air force veteran. And I was wondering, I was like, what did that, did they do that on the account of us asking if they had a veteran on the roster?

Aerial Hull: [00:00:58] No, no. They were asking me, just about different things beforehand for commentary. So, you know, that's one of the first things I always say, Oh, well, I'm a veteran.

Tanner Iskra: [00:01:07] Gotcha. Very good. Very good. Now I'm pretty sure that you've been on other wrestling podcasts, but is born the battle. Are we the first podcast to feature you because of your military service?

Aerial Hull: [00:01:17] Yes. Yes you are actually.

Tanner Iskra: [00:01:19] All right. I love scooping the community.

I saw that you're from Florida. Is that where you call home?

Aerial Hull: [00:01:28] Yes. Yes. I'm from Clearwater, Florida.

Tanner Iskra: [00:01:30] Tampa Bay fan Jags fan. Any college teams or is it just, is it just wrestling?

Aerial Hull: [00:01:35] Well, I'm a big Gators fan. Okay. I was a huge Tony Dungy fan, so when he actually left the bucks and went to the Colts, I like pretty much follows him and fandom.

And then when he retired, I stopped picking teams.

Tanner Iskra: [00:01:49] Gotcha. Gotcha. Well, as with every veteran Ariel, there comes a time when you know that military service is the next step. Of course, you know, in earlier generations, they, people were, were drafted. Not everyone chose enlist. Okay. Ariel, when did you first know that the air force was your next step in life?

Aerial Hull: [00:02:07] Well, when I graduated, High school, I necessarily didn't want to go to college and I did my first year because my mom really wanted me to do it.

Tanner Iskra: [00:02:15] Yeah.

Aerial Hull: [00:02:17] But I remembered promising her when I was younger, because she wanted to go to the air force. But she didn't have anybody to push her to follow her dreams.

And so I was like, mommy I'll go to the air force for you. And I made like this big promise about it and, cause she's like, yeah girl, sure, whatever you, you won't do it. And when I was like, well, what do I want to want to do? And I was like, well, I want to go to the air force. And I want to, I want to work on cars.

I want to learn how to do a trade. I want something a little bit different than just everything. So after senior year, I was like, Nope. After the first year of college, I was, I was like, I'm outta here.

Tanner Iskra: [00:02:56] Wow. So you, you kept a promise to your mom.

Aerial Hull: [00:03:00] Oh yeah. Any, any big promise that I have. I've told her I've kept and it was only like really three big ones.

I only have one, one more left.

Tanner Iskra: [00:03:09] Oh yeah. What's that

Aerial Hull: [00:03:10] take her to Greece.

Tanner Iskra: [00:03:11] Take her to Greece. Ok.

Aerial Hull: [00:03:15] She always wanted to go. I was like one day, mama. I'll get you to Greece.

Tanner Iskra: [00:03:18] Oh, well you're on your way to that. What year did you enlist in the air force?

Aerial Hull: [00:03:22] It was 2008. It feels like forever.

Tanner Iskra: [00:03:26] Yeah. Now you were, a firetruck mechanic.

Now that was the vehicle management designator that you were assigned to. Was it fire like firetruck? Do you know most motor T or vehicle mechanics? I know in the, in the military, you know, worked on in the, in the motor pool, either on Humvees or seven tons. Yeah. How did it specifically come become fire trucks for you?

Aerial Hull: [00:03:47] Well, when I was looking at the jobs, with my, recruiter and he was like, you can pick any job you want. And I was like, well, I want to work with them. I want my hands. They're gonna always been like that. Like taken apart door, doorbells and stuff, all that stuff. And working with cars with my stepdad.

And so I was like, well, I want to be a mechanic. He's like, well, you can work with firetrucks. And I was like, that's awesome. That's great. And he's like, you would get to work on the flight line. So he pretty much sold sold me on it. He's like, you have to learn gas engines first, and then you go onto diesel.

When I was like, well, that's two birds, one stone.

Tanner Iskra: [00:04:20] Now in the air force, is that a specific MOS just for firetrucks or is it part of the motor T and then they said, Hey, in school, they put you out towards like a specialty vehicle

Aerial Hull: [00:04:31] specialty. I had to go to a Naval base Fort Wannabe in California Fort Wannabe. So we had a shared base.

And I had to train with them and learn with them and then, go onto a separate fire truck class after like my first. Eight eight or so weeks learning gas engines.

Tanner Iskra: [00:04:53] Join, join environments are a fun place to learn, man. I don't know about you. I was, I was a public combat camera and I did a joint school with all four services.

It's just cool to see a different slice of the military. Outside of your own service.

Aerial Hull: [00:05:05] Oh yeah. I never knew how good I had it. Like my grandfather he's, he was, he was an O six captain in the Navy and he was like go to the air force. And when I got stationed at a Naval base and I realized like how many times they have to go out there and get dressed and, and March and swim. And I was like, this is too, you guys want too much. Like I understood why they called us the chair force. I was like, I get it. I get it guys. I get it.

Tanner Iskra: [00:05:38] My, my brother is an airman first. He was in the army. Then, then he went in the air force and, and now he works for the Marine Corps as a civilian.

I told him he finally joined a real branch when he got out. But, but, you know, when I was 17, the first. Base I ever saw was the plush life of the air force at Travis air force base. And I was like, cool deal. You know, the military life might be good for me too. And then I turned around and joined the Marine Corps, you know, I was, I was going to join the air force and my best friend, JC, but we had it and we had a gentleman's agreement to go on the buddy system together.

And then I broke that agreement, joint bumped jumping into the Marine Corps, and then he ended up joining. And getting stationed in Virginia Beach near me and I visited him and it remind me how good the air force had it in terms of like, you know, basic amenities. And, yeah, it's

Aerial Hull: [00:06:23] the perks,

Tanner Iskra: [00:06:26] while you were in, who was either your best friend or your greatest mentor?

Aerial Hull: [00:06:31] My best friend was Stephanie holiday. We had our, like our own language and we would just talk to each other and it would annoy our, like our TI's and everything. And. We just have so much fun going to the beach and party. And there's just a vibe like we were in training together in California, and then we ended up getting stationed at the same base at Seymour Johnson in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Tanner Iskra: [00:07:01] What was the, what was your best memory with Stephanie

Aerial Hull: [00:07:04] when she first got there. We were talking cause she was like going through a lot of different things and everything and I'm Christian. So of course my natural response is to talk about God. And, she ended up, you know, becoming Christian and, you know, turning her life over and everything.

Just, everything started to get better for her. And we went and got matching tattoos and, it's one of my favorite tattoos on my body and it says faith, Hebrews 11 and one. And basically, basis, some things hoped for and evidence of things not seen. So I just kinda like, not necessarily drilled that into her, but that was like her big message that she got out of it.

So one of my favorite ones

Tanner Iskra: [00:07:48] got you. Yeah. You guys got something that you will have together forever. That's awesome. You still need you guys still talk.

Aerial Hull: [00:07:57] Yeah We still message each other and everything. And, and she's like, Still in the military, still in the air force.

Tanner Iskra: [00:08:04] Oh, she's still in. Gotcha, gotcha, Now, you know, at Seymour Johnson.

Did you have any deployments? Did you guys get, did you get out of the base anywhere?

Aerial Hull: [00:08:13] I didn't get a chance to when they were about to send me out Crohn's disease started to act up. So I couldn't, I couldn't go because of all my flare ups and everything.

Tanner Iskra: [00:08:24] got you. I saw that in your feature that AEW did you know that they get to know swole, if you will, doing my research, you know, you talked about some pretty deep stuff in there and you shared that, that deeply personal story about Crohn's disease. Talk to me now, Ariel. My birthday is April 3rd. So that story caught my attention.

Yeah, yeah,

Aerial Hull: [00:08:47] yeah. Yeah.

Tanner Iskra: [00:08:51] Talk to me about April 3rd, 2008.

Aerial Hull: [00:08:53] Well, that day I went to the doctors and I, I was complaining about my stomach hurting and she said that, Oh, we think you have ulcers, you know, take this medicine and go home. It you'll be, you know, we'll check on you and do a colonoscopy. See where you're at.

And literally I got out of the office and, and I went to go use the restroom and nothing, but blood came out and I went to my house and then my parents' house. And I was like, I just need to lay down, sit down. And my dad looked at me and he's, he's a pastor. So when he said these words, it caught me completely off guard.

He's like, you look like death and. Like you are pale white. And I looked in the mirror and all of my color was just gone.

Tanner Iskra: [00:09:46] Wow.

Aerial Hull: [00:09:48] And I was like, mom, I just need to lay down. I'll be fine. I'll be fine. Nothing like a nap cant fix. And she was like, okay, are you sure? And then she can ask me again. And I was like, okay.

You know, you asked somebody for something three times. I'm like, sure, whatever, just get you stop talking. I was like, yes, mom, I'll go. I'll go. An, I remember being in the back. Seat. And I remember just laying still and having like one of those outer body experiences, my body's just heating up. And the next thing you know, I'm in the hospital, like I'm waking up and I'm like, what happened?

What happened? They were like, Oh, we have to get a CT scan so we can see what's going on. They did the scan came back and they were like, Ma'am your daughter has less than 30 minutes to live. They said that my ins thas my small intestines was swallowing my larger intestines, and there was a blockage and my intestines was going to burst.

And then from there it was just a seconds and I would be dead. And so she's like, okay. So they prepped me in 10 minutes. It was, I was like flying through the hospital to the OR, and. They had to like, just inject me with, the, like the medicine, the, the, to like stabilize me and stuff and put me asleep and, and I remember just going to sleep.

And I was like, okay, well, I don't know what's going to happen, but we'll see. I wake up and I have tubes coming out of my nose and like, I have catheters and it's like, what happened? And the doctor was like, well, we have a takeout about a foot and a half of your intestines. Like you actually have Crohns disease

And they were like, it's hereditary. So don't know who youve got it from whoever it is that gave it to you. And usually this, this disease is found in kids and infants. So apparently it was lying dormant for all those years and it spiked. Like as soon as I had like 18 years of like, yeah, I'm good. I can eat whatever I want.

It's great. But it was like a buildup, like a ticking bomb. Wow. Then that was like, I was laid up in there for two weeks and yeah, my parents call it the other birthdays since they had to

pretty much revive me back. Huh? After finish flat-lining in the back of my mom's car. Great. Yeah. It's, it's scary to think about.

But I'm so grateful for like my experiences and, you know

Tanner Iskra: [00:12:36] yeah. That was, you know, that's one of the most, extreme cases of Crohn's disease I've ever heard. I think I got a friend from high school that has Crohn's disease. But I mean, I've, I've, I mean, it, I mean, it sounds like you went through some, that was that's crazy.

Aerial Hull: [00:12:51] Oh yeah. It's the highest form Crohns disease that they call it. Toxic megacolon.

Tanner Iskra: [00:12:56] Got you. Now there's a lot of veterans out there that are facing medical ailments. You know, maybe being told by, I mean, you're now are, you're, you've been able to turn that around and become a professional wrestler, you know, and I think that's, that's amazing.

You know, but there's a lot of veterans out there that are, that are facing a medical ailment and maybe they're being told by doctors and professionals in their industries that they can't do certain things we ever were. You ever told that you couldn't do something because of this disease?

Aerial Hull: [00:13:26] Oh, yeah. Literally after my surgery, I was told that I wouldn't be able to, do any sports.

He like high contact, high impact type sports. The likelihood of me having a kid was like slim to none. You're like, Nope, just it's not possible because of the stress and because of my belly and where they put the incision and stuff. I was like, I don't believe in those words, but sure.

Tanner Iskra: [00:13:54] Now, do you have a kid?

Aerial Hull: [00:13:56] I do. I do. She is. She just turned 6 in December, my little, my little joy. ADESA.

Tanner Iskra: [00:14:02] So in your feature you said can't should not be in your vocabulary.

Aerial Hull: [00:14:08] Oh yeah. Most definitely. You should never limit, limit yourself at all.

Tanner Iskra: [00:14:13] What should be in your vocabulary?

Aerial Hull: [00:14:15] Discipline. Does that mean? I tell people all the time, you're not going to be motivated, but that's why you have to be disciplined.

Discipline is a whole different thing.

Tanner Iskra: [00:14:24] Got you. Absolutely. 100%.

Aerial Hull: [00:14:26] Yeah. It's like when I was getting in shape and when I was trying to, you know, be a wrestler and become a superstar, I was like, Ariel, there are people out there that are gonna want this harder. They're gonna, they're gonna train for it. He's like you can't use anything that's going on with you as a crutch, you can complain.

Okay. Cause I complain all day, but

Tanner Iskra: [00:14:49] I think every, I think that we get that from when we were junior enlisted, like lance criminals and young airmen are just made to be complain.

Aerial Hull: [00:14:56] Yeah. Like I complain all day, but I have to have that discipline to continue to keep going. Continue to keep striving.

There's somebody out there that's going to be waiting on me to fulfill my dreams in order for them to get the encouragement, to fulfill theirs. Yeah. So if you think about that, so many people are literally depending on you to fulfill your dreams, why not do it? Just do it?

Tanner Iskra: [00:15:21] Absolutely. 100%. Now, did you have to go through all this while you, cause you said that you joined the military in 2008, did you have to go through all this while you were in the military?

Aerial Hull: [00:15:31] My Crohn's disease?

Yes. I had, I'd had three, I think three, three surgeries while I was in the military.

Tanner Iskra: [00:15:43] Was it a contributing factor as like a reason to get out?

Aerial Hull: [00:15:47] yes. My Crohns disease started to have big flare ups to the point where I couldn't do any of my duties at all. Like they had to put me on light duty and I couldn't lift anything that was like over 10 pounds and having the back to back surgeries, they were just like, okay, look, I think its about time for you to stay at the house.

Tanner Iskra: [00:16:10] And, and forget it. Forget about being deployable. Whatever. Oh yeah.

Aerial Hull: [00:16:15] Yeah. Okay. No chance whatsoever. I mean, they didn't get me out of doing the exercises. Sure.

Tanner Iskra: [00:16:24] Sure.

Aerial Hull: [00:16:25] Were like, well, 12 hour shifts.

Tanner Iskra: [00:16:27] Yeah. It's like, Oh, Oh, light duty. You know, you can't do crunches, but you know, you can run or you can figure something out. Yeah, absolutely. Absolutely.

Aerial Hull: [00:16:37] You can pack well bearings and do all changes. There's nothing wrong with you.

Tanner Iskra: [00:16:43] But it helps you to build that discipline a little bit.

Yeah. So you got out in 2012, if I'm doing my math, right.

Aerial Hull: 11, oh 2010 sorry

Tanner Iskra: Gotcha. Was it was, it was so you did a two year stint was, was Crohn's disease, like a medical, like you got out because of a medical reason.

Aerial Hull: [00:17:04] Yes, by Crohns is, and then, you know, my run sheets super long when it comes to my medical history.

Tanner Iskra: [00:17:11] Yeah. Yeah, no, I, I hear ya. Now what was it like to get out at that time as a transition from, from going from the military life to civilian in that time,

Aerial Hull: [00:17:22] it was, I guess, unsettling to a point where I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do, because I have like these things I have to check off like, Oh, I want to do this.

I want to do this. I want to do this. And I was like, I knew the last thing on my list was to be a wrestler, but I was like, I was not in the Headspace to go there and pursue it.

Tanner Iskra: [00:17:41] Yeah

Aerial Hull: [00:17:43] I was like, well, I just I'll find something. And I just ended up working at GameStop, like as a holiday hire. And I ended up staying on board.

Cause I just loved games. I ended up like. Well, I ended up falling in love with like all my professions.

Tanner Iskra: [00:17:56] Oh my gosh. XBOX or PS PlayStation, which when you do

Aerial Hull: [00:18:03] I play, I played both,

Tanner Iskra: [00:18:05] both of them. Okay. What's your game of choice?

Aerial Hull: [00:18:07] Actually right now, graphic wise, PlayStation 4, because like, Assassins creed Odyssey is beautiful on there is something about it. Visually striking game, like just makes me so giddy. I'm I'm very happy about that. And breakpoint. So I'm playing a lot of Tom Tom Clansky. Now my Xbox, I love my racing games. All my sports games are on there. Like Hitman , Gears of War. I, I literally have like a life size, retro Lancer.

In my house. Im a Gears of War fanatic.

Yeah. Like it makes all the sounds with the chainsaw and everything. Yes.

Tanner Iskra: [00:18:48] I, I play Madden right now. My, that's how I keep in touch with a lot of my military friends. We have an online franchise and then. And then call of duty Wars.

Aerial Hull: [00:18:56] Oh yeah Madden is like the first game I ever played.

Tanner Iskra: [00:18:58] Yeah. Yeah. It's so the rule is you can't have your favorite team.

The team has to be rated under an 80 and we play an online franchise mode. So you have to build. Yeah. So you have to build a crappy team. It could be the Browns. It could be, you know,

Aerial Hull: [00:19:11] that's great though. Just picking all the heaters

Tanner Iskra: [00:19:16] and you can only do like four trades a year. I can get into it, but yeah.

That's I mean, yeah. So you went to GameStop you, so you're like kinda like living out my dreams a little bit on the game side too. So how did you, how'd you get into wrestling? Were you a fan growing up? How'd you get into it? When and where did you get your training?

Aerial Hull: [00:19:35] Yes. I was always a fan of wrestling.

Yeah, living in Clearwater, just everyone was there. It was just like a little hub of wrestlers.

Tanner Iskra: [00:19:46] I didn't know that at all.

Aerial Hull: [00:19:48] It was crazy, crazy. Like they just lived in Bel air and in a little subdivision and it was just insane seeing like real life. Wrestlers just walking around with their dogs are fascinated because you can do a kick flip

Tanner Iskra: [00:20:09] Were you just walking by something and just like, yo, check this out. Boom. And then like bust something out or what how'd that?

Aerial Hull: [00:20:13] Yeah, it was up, it was at a skate park and literally macho male. I, I do that like, like this, I was like, wow, this is it's amazing. So you just kinda like spoiled at that point.

You know,

Tanner Iskra: [00:20:29] no kidding.

Aerial Hull: [00:20:30] Right. So when I started dating, Cedric, he was wrestling and training over at high spots in Charlotte, North Carolina, under this number one, George South. And he's literally, like I said, he's literally the best, best trainer he's face. He knows his stuff he's proper. And he always has great stories.

He's just a lovable guy and. When I started training with him, I felt so comfortable. And I felt so, crisp, you know, you felt like you're just getting the right stuff when something's right. You feel it. Plus everybody would bring their kids to George. Like here George teach them something.

Tanner Iskra: [00:21:10] Indie starting you out start.

Now that can be a tough road. You know, we've had an independent wrestler onboard in the battle before, Yon Olstrom who trained out of California, and actually trained with Frankie Kazarian Scorpio, sky and others. I personally randomly randomly when I was in the Marine Corps, I, I traveled to Fayetteville, North Carolina, and I was going to pull security for a wrestling show outside of a car dealership.

Only the ref didn't show up. And then I had to become the ref, which gave me an appreciation, which gave me a security to ref. It totally gave me an appreciation for what

refs do because, you know, I was 20 years old. I had no clue what I was doing. So yeah, I know that indie wrestling can be a tough road. Sometimes

Aerial Hull: [00:21:52] it is. Its completely tough, It's hard getting on that road and you're driving 70 hours. Just eat it for exposure. \$50 mountain Dew and a hot dog, or you're just exhausted.

Tanner Iskra: [00:22:07] Yeah. Talk to me about your journey to AEW, how'd you get how'd you go from Indie to AEW?

Aerial Hull: [00:22:13] Well, at the top of the year, and well top of the, year in 2019, I started, it's pretty much my journey to get into shape and.

I would, I kept feeling like, Oh, there's something coming. I don't know what it is, but you no, I have a saying, if you stay ready you don't have to get ready.

Tanner Iskra: [00:22:32] Yeah.

Aerial Hull: [00:22:33] So as I was preparing myself or whatever it was, I knew I had, a title match or, the Ross championship in Toronto. For the summit, it was like a thing where they combined shimmer and the palace, and just a whole bunch of people just into one smash wrestling.

And I won my first championship there and I got my hand raised by Bota Cano and me thinking that this was my moment that I was preparing myself for, because she's never done that before. I was like, this is, this is an amazing honor for myself. And. And the next thing I know I'm, I've had my first title defense in Chicago at Berwyn Eagles, and I get a message from Brandy and she's like, you're going to be in Chicago during this time.

Right. I was like, Oh yes, no. Cause they were have an all out doing it and he's like, okay, I want to book you for this battle Royal. And I'm like, Oh, okay. Oh, I guess this has turned out to be a good weekend.

Tanner Iskra: [00:23:39] No kidding. How did Brandy get your number? Was it through a network through Cedric

Aerial Hull: [00:23:42] No, she just DM'd me. Like she literally just messaged me.

Tanner Iskra: [00:23:46] wow, very cool.

Aerial Hull: [00:23:47] And was just like, Hey, and this is when I went through a change because I was trying to decide whether, because I was still being called Ariel Monroe in the Big Swole, it was just like a nickname. And I was like, you know what I think this, I kept feeling it.

I was like, it's time to cut it off. Cut off Ariel Monroe's, just for Big Swole. That's it. That's all you're going to be. And as soon as I changed it, so next thing you know, here comes the battle Royal and I'm like, Oh my goodness, this is amazing. I'm in this battle royal that my friends, I got little Swole to Nocos Boy, I got Mama Swole, Mercedes Martinez and it's

amazing. Like leading up to that day. I was so nervous. I was like, got this, you're ready. Like you're in shape. You look great. Just go out there and show them proof. Yeah. And I remember in the middle of doing it, I was like, it was like, okay, I'm just going to bop, bop, come in and do my stuff.

I come in and do my thing. I hear the crowd chanting and I'm like, Is that for me? No, I said it out loud.

Tanner Iskra: [00:25:01] Was this at all out.

Aerial Hull: [00:25:04] Yeah, this is I'm in the middle of the ring with NILAH getting my stuff. I hear them chanting Big Swole is that I was like, is that for me? I hit the ropes. Do my move Nilah says, yeah, girl,

like the biggest pop I'm like, Oh my gosh, they know who I am.

Tanner Iskra: [00:25:25] Oh my gosh. So was that the moment that you realized yeah, I can do this on national level for, for, for a career.

Aerial Hull: [00:25:32] Yes, yes. Yes. Well, as, as myself as Big Swole, it gave me complete confidence to be myself. Yeah, I think the very, very first time was, I had a, I had a enhancement match against Naya jacks on the Raw.

And I was nervous because of all the people, the act performed in front of mass before, but that was when I was dancing.

Tanner Iskra: [00:25:57] Yeah.

Aerial Hull: [00:25:58] But this was different

Tanner Iskra: [00:26:01] dancing, like high school or something.

Aerial Hull: [00:26:02] Yeah, I did it in high school and a little bit in college. And the hip hop, tap, jazz

Tanner Iskra: [00:26:09] tracking,

Aerial Hull: [00:26:09] you know, a little bit of ballet yeah.

Tracking and, right.

Tanner Iskra: [00:26:13] Just different.

Aerial Hull: [00:26:16] This was a little different. I felt it then. And I was like, I can do this. And then in that moment went all out. I was like, Oh yes, I can do this as myself.

Tanner Iskra: [00:26:26] Yeah. So your moniker is Big Swole to you. What is Big Swole? What does it represent? It always looks like you're just having a great time, you know, to me, it's just having a great time out there.

Aerial Hull: [00:26:39] Oh yeah. It's it's just, I break it up. It doesn't just mean muscles or anything like that. Cause I'm fairly slim. You're not fooling anybody,

Tanner Iskra: [00:26:49] but you got muscles. Hey,

Aerial Hull: [00:26:52] I got muscles. I got, I got enough. I'm muscle passing at this point. Yeah. It's a big personality and swole mentality, which basically the swollen mentality is everything in my life is grand.

It's big. Everything I bought, I put 110% into it. I gave it my all, like in my state. I go all out and, you know, in my wrestling, I try to go all out in everything I do. I try to give all of it. And that's what this swole mentality is.

Tanner Iskra: [00:27:25] I dig it. I dig it. Yeah.

Aerial Hull: [00:27:28] Keep it going. Go big.

Tanner Iskra: [00:27:29] Got you. Now that, that match it all.

That was at the moment that I saw in that feature where Kenny Omega basically offered you a contract backstage.

Aerial Hull: [00:27:38] No, they were, they, they kept bringing me back for different matches. And when I had my first singles match, it was the craziest thing about it. Is that how serendipitous everything was is that it was in Charlotte.

Tanner Iskra: [00:27:53] Wow.

Aerial Hull: [00:27:54] And, and out of all the places, all the cards that I could be, I was opener. And so I felt the pressure and I was like, this is in Charlotte. And I knew who was in the stands. I had, like, I had fans in the stands. I had family in there. I had like my best friends and I had the people would always say that I would never do this.

Or I would never get out of Cedrics shadow, or I was not meant for this or would never book me and knew that they were there. And I was like, this. It's my proving moment. I went out there with Shita And I had a blast. I had a great match. It was over, I went to the back and I was like, Oh, they're filming something. Let me be quiet.

Trying to be respectful, you know, like I'm out of breath. And like, I'm like, Oh, okay, let me just be quiet real quick. I'm just walking. And then can he just walks up to me? And I'm like, Oh, Okay. Yeah. Let's okay.

Tanner Iskra: Yeah were doing something

Aerial Hull: I was like, Oh, this is for me. Oh, for me,

I guess the best part about it. Like outside of it being Charlotte, I guess the cherry on top was that Kamen Paige. I've known, I've known Kamen for eight, eight, nine years.

Tanner Iskra: [00:29:19] Yeah. And

Aerial Hull: [00:29:20] I remember him when he was just like a little flat chested, skinny country, boy, Adam paid, you know very quiet. You know, he loves his mommas biscuits, very quiet man.

And like till now seeing him grow as well. And he was one of the first people I saw after the camera's cut off. Well, the cameras didn't cut off. It caught me. And I was like, Oh, Stevie. And I grabbed him and hugged him. And it was just, it was like that moment where you just like, this is where I belong. I'm with people that I've known for almost a decade.

I'm with people that are friends and family, no one has egos. It was, it was perfect.

Tanner Iskra: [00:30:03] No, that was a very cool moment to see on the, on the screen there. And it's cool that you didn't even expect it. You didn't even expect it. No, not at all. That's awesome. So what's next for Aerial Big Swole Hull. Okay. What are your next immediate plans?

Now you talk about Shita she's the new champ.

Aerial Hull: Right

Tanner Iskra: And the feature that I saw that you wrestled her, is she on your radar? Radar? Is there another feud youre looking to settle.

Aerial Hull: [00:30:29] She's she's definitely on my radar, but the immediate person, the person that is immediately in front of me is Brittany.

Brittany Baker. She is number one on my list. Once I squash her, after she comes back, then I will move on to play in the AW womens championship, but first I gotta get rid of her.

Tanner Iskra: [00:30:52] I dig it. I dig it. What, so, you know, we've covered a lot of ground, you know, swole. What is one thing that you learned in service that you apply to what you do today?

Aerial Hull: [00:31:06] Mmm. Honestly just excellence as that's basically what the air force really just taught. It's just excellence in all We do, you know?

Tanner Iskra: [00:31:18] the commitment to excellence.

Aerial Hull: [00:31:20] Yes. Service before self it's. It's taught me how to humble myself and truly give, you know, it also allowed me to understand. Different things in, in different environments.

Cause you know, it's very male dominant when you're a mechanic. Absolutely. So it taught me how to work in certain areas where you have the clubs, you know, the circles.

Tanner Iskra: [00:31:44] Very interesting. I have never heard that answer before I asked everyone that. And that's a very interesting answer. Based on your perspective as a wrestler to you, you can correlate both of those that either male dominated.

But I'm breaking it, but I'm, but I'm breaking in.

Aerial Hull: [00:31:58] I have to look. I'm not just some quiet person. Like, no, I'm here. I have a voice. And when I come in there, it's the whole different show, like, Oh, Swoles here.

Right. Matt Hardy. He calls me to swallow lease. He's like the Swolese is here. So I just like walk around. I'm like, Swolese is here. That's awesome.

Tanner Iskra: [00:32:24] Is there a veteran, nonprofit, or individual that you've worked with or have had experience with dimension?

Aerial Hull: [00:32:30] yeah. And I'm not gonna, I'm not gonna say his first name, so I don't want to like get him out, but his last name is Green. Cause you know, we always call each other by our last names. Green was a, it was a dear friend of mine and him.

He only got into the service because his parents were lifers. His brother went to his service as well. And his brother ended up passing away, IED stepped on it in front of him on deployment. So he's, he's always like the person, I think about the most when I think about, the military and my time and my service is that, how, how big the effect it can have on you, you know, because they say, when they say you they mentally break you down so they can build you up, you know, so you can be stronger than ever.

And just the fact that he went through that and he's still okay. You know, he still has his head on his shoulders. He got the necessary help tools and stuff to make sure that he was stable.

Tanner Iskra: [00:33:44] Is there anything else that I might've missed or that we haven't talked about that you'd like to share?

Aerial Hull: [00:33:50] I would say keep smiling. My dad, he tells me that a lot. He always tells me keep smiling. And for a while it was always annoying. But it wasn't until I got the gist of it, no matter what happens in life perspective; it's your outfit.

It's how you react to it. You know, you have to keep smiling, you have to endure through, you know, don't let anybody tell you how your life is going to go. You know, because no matter what any doctor or physician says, it's not set in stone. If you have faith in it, if you can, will it to be it, it can happen.